United Nations S/2015/418

Security Council

Distr.: General
17 June 2015
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 9 June 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you my Government's rejection of the false allegations made in the letter from the Qatari regime issued as document S/2015/332. Those allegations are part of a desperate attempt to put a good face on its activities in support of terrorism by distorting the facts. They seek to distract the attention of the Member States of the United Nations as a whole, and the Security Council in particular, from the fact that the Qatari regime is directly sponsoring armed terrorist groups in order to intimidate the Syrian people and undermine the security and stability of the Syrian State. Here are a few facts that demonstrate that Qatar is directly implicated in spilling the blood of Syrians and supporting terrorism:

- It is preposterous that the Qatari regime should be among the States that send identical letters against Syria to the Security Council and the Secretary-General. Its letters are full of misinformation and turn the facts on their heads, especially when they claim that Syria is using chemical weapons against its people. The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons has confirmed that Syria has implemented its obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention in full cooperation with that Organization's Technical Secretariat. The allegations in the Qatari letter are all the more ridiculous given that Syria is the party that requested an investigation into the use of chlorine gas against innocent civilians by armed terrorist groups in the cities and villages of Syria. The position taken by Qatari officials and others is a veiled defence of their declared allies, which include the Nusrah Front, Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and other terrorist groups associated with Al-Qaida. Available information suggests that the Governments of Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and other countries are the ones supplying the terrorists with toxic chemicals in order to malign and defame the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic.

- Qatari media institutions and outlets are conducting propaganda and publicity campaigns on behalf of the armed terrorist groups that are active in Syrian territory, and defending them fervently. On Wednesday, 27 May 2015, the Al-Jazeera network's programme "Without Limits" had on an individual named Abu Mohammed al-Jawlani, the commander of the so-called Nusrah Front, who is on the list established and maintained by the Al-Qaida Sanctions

Committee. The interview was designed to promote terrorism and terrorist organizations, and further threaten the Government and people of Syria. His appearance on a broadcast network is just one more piece of conclusive evidence of the organic relationship and close cooperation among that terrorist organization, the Al-Jazeera network and the Qatari owners of the network. The latter is a mouthpiece for the ruling family of Qatar, which sets its inflammatory editorial policies. The conduct of the interview was a shameful violation of Security Council counter-terrorism resolutions, notably Security Council resolution 1624 (2005), which prohibits incitement to terrorism.

- On 11 May 2015, in an interview with the French newspaper *Le Monde* in the capital of a State that is a permanent member of the Security Council, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Qatari regime said that he considered cooperation with the Nusrah Front and its amorphous affiliate terrorist groups to be an unavoidable reality. We quote from the interview: "We are against any extremism. However, all these groups, with the exception of ISIL, are fighting to topple the regime. The moderates cannot say to the Nusrah Front: 'Stay at home, we won't work with you.' One has to consider the situation on the ground and be realistic". That declaration from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Qatari regime amounts to a frank admission from the diplomatic chief of the Qatari regime that it is supporting and cooperating with the terrorist Nusrah Front, in a blatant violation of Security Council counter-terrorism resolutions, in particular Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014) and 2199 (2015).

- The letter of the Permanent Representative of the Qatari regime refers to what it calls mediation efforts. The Syrian Government wishes to point out that the Qatari Government institutions stand apart from their counterparts around the world in their willingness to engage numerous terrorist groups, including Al-Qaida and the Nusrah Front, in mediation efforts for the release of hostages and abductees held by the groups, including members of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, in Syria and in other parts of the world. The Qatari regime's alacrity in engaging in such mediation efforts and guaranteeing ransom payments of millions of dollars confirms that it is in close contact and coordination with the groups, and is using such situations as a means of openly funding them.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic calls on the United Nations and, in particular, the Security Council, to take immediate measures against the Qatari regime with regard to its support for armed terrorist groups in Syria — groups that have committed barbaric and bloody crimes against the Syrian State and people — and to hold accountable those responsible, in accordance with Security Council counter-terrorism resolutions, in particular the five resolutions mentioned above.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative